

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 140535Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 294

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0133

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINT PP

SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE IN HOUSE OF
ASSEMBLY: NATIONAL PRESSURE GROUP LEADERS CALL FOR
STRONG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT SECOND DRAFT OF PROPOSED
CONSTITUTION BILL NOW IN CIRCULATION. DRAFT DOES NOT
INCLUDE PROVISIONS RE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT, SINCE CHAPTER TEN OF CPC REPORT ON PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT WAS NOT BROUGHT TO DEBATE IN HOUSE LAST
SESSION.

2. FIRST SESSION THIS YEAR OF HOUSE TO COMMENCE
FEBRUARY 24 WILL SIT TWO WEEKS, AND FOCUS MAINLY
ON CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES WITH QUESTION OF PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT POWERS LOOMING LARGE AS LAST REMAINING
SIGNIFICANT DIVISIVE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE TO BE SETTLED.

3. SPOKESMAN FOR UNITED PARTY (OPPOSITION) STATED
UNITED PARTY WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY CONSTITUTIONAL BILL
WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CLAUSES,
THEREBY PRECLUDING ANY ATTEMPT BY SOMARE GOVERNMENT
TO PUSH THROUGH CONSTITUTION BILL IN PRESENT FORM WITH
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PROMISES FOR LATER INCLUSION OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

POWERS.

4. PRESUMING AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED RE POWERS OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSE MEMBERS WILL RETURN TO ELECTORATES AFTER MARCH SITTING TO CR CONSTITUTION BILL AND ORGANIC LAWS ASSOCIATED WITH IT. PRESS OPTOMISTICALLY ANTICIPATES NOW THAT HOUSE WILL FORM ITSELF INTO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN APRIL TO DEBATE CONSTITUTION AS WHOLE.

5. PRESS ALSO REPORTS STATEMENTS MADE BY JOHN KAPUTIN AND FATHER JOHN MOMIS, LEADERS OF NATIONAL PRESSURE GROUP CALLING ON GOVERNMENT TO IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT PNG TO PROMOTE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

A. CREATION OF NEW POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ORDER RESPONSIVE TO EMERGING NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEANS

B. FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL AUTONOMY FOR EACH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

C. ACCEPTANCE OF LOCAL POLITICAL MOVEMENTS AS THE BASIS FOR REAL DEVELOPMENT

D. PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ANY GROUP IRRESPECTIVE OF POLITICAL AFFILIATION

E. RECOGNITION AND ACCEPTANCE BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF THE RIGHTS OF MINORITY GROUPS.

6. KAPUTIN AND MOMIS ASSERTED IT CLEAR FROM INCREASING POLITICAL UNREST THAT CENTRALIST APPROACH AS ESTABLISHED BY AUSTRALIAN ADMINISTRATION AND PROMOTED AND PERPETUATED BY THE SOMARE GOVERNMENT, HAD FAILED TO COME TO GRIPS WITH DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS.

7. COMMENT FOLLOWS IN SEPTTEL.
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